

Cam Gordon

City Council Member Second Ward

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Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800:

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 6-5-12

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours: Tuesday, June 12th, 9:30-11:00am Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

Items:

- 1) Vikings Stadium
- 2) Single Sort Recycling
- 3) Neighborhood Survey
- 4) Protests in City-Owned Plazas
- 5) Bike Walk Week
- 6) New City Coordinator: Paul Aasen
- 7) Please Water Boulevard Trees
- 8) Healthy Housing Report
- 9) Temporary Expansion of Liquor Licenses
- 10) Grants for Clean Energy Projects
- 11) Revocation of Rental License Ordinance
- 12) Openings on City Boards and Commissions
- 1) On a razor-thin 7-6 vote, the City Council has given local approval to the stadium bill that passed the Legislature earlier in May. I strongly opposed this and repeatedly spoke out against it. I believe that redirecting more than ½ billion dollars in city sales tax revenue to primarily benefit a private company is fiscally irresponsible, unfair to Minneapolis taxpayers and violates the City Charter. The enormous size of the public subsidy is unacceptable and the long term debt of \$575 to \$850 million dollars, that Minneapolis would be responsible for paying off, is too big a burden to place on Minneapolis. The project takes over \$400,000 a year in property taxes off the tax rolls, exempts the Vikings from paying property taxes and, after 2020, puts funding to maintain the Convention Center and Target Center at risk. It also eliminates almost all hope of reducing future sales taxes or using them to help provide more basic services or support investments with greater public benefit. More fundamentally, however, I opposed this because I believe that any stadium deal that uses Minneapolis sales tax money should be put to the voters, as is required by our City's Charter. I believe that this Council, Mayor, Governor and Legislature have left a terrible mess for future generations to clean up and I am sorry I was unable to stop it.
- 2) The Council has approved changing our residential recycling program to a single (or no) sort system next year. According to a study that relied on recycling pilots in various Minneapolis neighborhoods and a study of similar cities, a single sort program will be easier for residents to use, significantly increase the amount of waste that is recycled (from the current 18% up to 32%) and cost the City less to administer. I am very supportive of this change, mostly because I believe we need to get as much recyclable material out of the standard waste stream as possible. For more information on the recycling collection, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/recycling.
- 3) The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department has developed a survey to help assess the impact of neighborhood organizations, the NCR Department, the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) and the Community Participation Program (CPP). Leaders in neighborhood organizations are asked to complete the survey. It is confidential and will be analyzed by a third party consultant. The deadline is Friday, June 22. Results will be posted online and emailed to all neighborhood groups and will be used as a tool for improving work with neighborhood organizations and as well as measuring the effectiveness of the CPP. Please forward this link on to other leaders and volunteers and to take the survey go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NCR2012.
- 4) Council President Barb Johnson's resolution that would have severely restricted the rights of protestors on City-owned plazas in Minneapolis has been indefinitely delayed. I believe this is a good outcome.

- 5) Organizers of the annual Twin Cities Bike Walk Week are asking for your pledge to replace at least one car trip with biking or walking during this year's Bike Walk Week, June 2-10, in hopes that you'll develop a new, more active routine for getting around. Even if you already bike or walk to get around, sign up and be counted. Last year more than 10,000 people took the Bike Walk Week pledge, choosing active transportation over car travel. They discovered the benefits, starting with better health, money saved and a healthier environment. Join them this year for Bike Walk Week events. For details and a calendar of Bike Walk Week events, visit http://bikewalkweek.org.
- 6) The Council has confirmed Paul Aasen as the new City Coordinator. Mr. Aasen has a background in science, government, and environmental issues, most recently leading the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. I am excited to have someone with such a clear environmental focus in this very important position, which oversees Sustainability, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Communications and more.
- 7) Has a new boulevard tree been planted near your property recently? You can help it get a good start by ordering a tree watering bag from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board at no direct cost to you. The Park Board will install it, and then you fill it up with water once a week. The Park Board will remove it later this fall. Contact the Park Board Forestry Division at 612-313-7710 or forestry@minneapolisparks.org to get a request form. Your form must be returned by June 15.
- 8) In May the City released a Results Minneapolis report on Healthy Housing that makes the case that the housing market in Minneapolis is beginning to show signs of rebounding after some very challenging years. For example, the number of foreclosures peaked at over 3,000 in 2008 and is now predicted to be half that amount in 2012. The report also shows that there are many more "cost burdened" households now when compared to 2000 and that the City has seen a significant reduction in owner-occupied single family homes in many neighborhoods and increase in rental property. While there have been relatively few foreclosures in the Second Ward the number of owner occupied homes being converted to rental property continues to be especially dramatic in some parts of the ward. The full report is available here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@citycoordinator/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-093062.pdf
- 9) The Council is considering an ordinance amendment by Council Member Schiff that would extend the twelve days of temporary expansions for alcohol-serving establishments that have been in place for the University stadium and downtown to the rest of Minneapolis. This would be an increase from the current eight days (or four two-day events) businesses may hold events. I am basically supportive of this idea. Every application for a temporary license is subject to review and approval. Failure to meet minimum standards during any event may result in restrictions on or denial of a future license. Requirements such as insurance, security, and mandatory permits, to name a few, must be completed in advance. The on-sale license holder is responsible for the activities and actions occurring at the event. I should note that since these new standards have been in place in Stadium Village, my office has heard no complaints. I have also received expressions of support from Ward 2 businesses, especially folks on the West Bank. Due to questions I've heard from neighborhood organizations, I moved to delay this ordinance for two weeks, but that motion failed. I expect that this will come forward on Friday, June 15th.
- 10) Is there an energy efficiency or renewable energy project in your community that needs a little help getting started? If so, the Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERT) provides funding for innovative, community-based clean energy projects. To have a project considered for funding, just fill out an application. Applications must be submitted no later than July 2nd, 2012 at 4:00pm. To get an application and find out more about the grants, go to http://rfp.mncerts.org.
- 11) The Council is considering changes to the ordinance regarding revocation of rental licenses. I am supportive of this and consider it a careful reorganization of our rental licensing ordinance. I believe that that the City will still have the tools we need to enforce our standards, but this will give us some more flexibility. I am especially supportive of the educational requirements, which will be a very good addition to the ordinance. Among the mandatory training requirements: Healthy Housing Training will be required when an inspector declares a property as substandard, owners with one revocation who own more than two properties will be required to attend a class on the fundamentals of property management, and if someone is seeking to have a license that was revoked reinstated, they will need to provide proof they have attended the fundamentals of property management.
- 12) There are openings on the Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Housing Board of Appeals, Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Public Health Advisory Committee, Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and Workforce Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.